

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W
----- 114825

R 261640Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2264
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL ROUNDUP

REF: (A) LISBON 1709; (NOTAL)

(B) LISBON 1422 (NOTAL)

1. FEW EMIGRANTS REGISTER TO VOTE:
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMIGRATION REPORTED MARCH 25 THAT ONLY
21,934 EMIGRANTS IN 30 COUNTRIES HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE
APRIL 25 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. (IN A RELATED DEVELOP-
MENT, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS DECREED THAT EMIGRANTS
ARE TO VOTE BY MAIL, MAKING IT EASIER FOR THEM TO PARTICIPATE
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IN THE ELECTIONS THAN IF THEY WERE TO HAVE TO VOTE IN PERSON

AT THE NEAREST CONSULATE.) ALMOST 28 PERCENT OF REGISTERED EMIGRANTS ARE RESIDENT IN GERMANY. THE NEXT LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF EMIGRANT VOTERS IS IN THE US (26 PERCENT), FRANCE (13 PERCENT), CANADA (10 PERCENT), AND VENEZUELA (7 PERCENT). ONLY A FEW HUNDRED EMIGRANTS REGISTERED IN SPAIN, AND 529 IN BRAZIL. ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE AT LEAST ONE MILLION POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE EMIGRANT VOTERS ARE THUS ENFRANCHISED. EMIGRANT COMMUNITY IMPACT ON SHAPE OF NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY NIL EVEN HAD MORE REGISTERED, SINCE BY LAW THEY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ONLY ONE DEPUTY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

2. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC APPEAL DENIED:

THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DENIED MARCH 25 A PDC APPEAL FOR RECONSIDERATION OF RECENT DECISION TO SUSPEND THE PARTY. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL PROMISED TO MAKE KNOWN ITS REASONS FOR REFUSING TO RECONSIDER THE SUSPENSION AT A FUTURE TIME. MEANWHILE, FORMER VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER CALVANI, BEARING WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THE GERMANS, HAS SPENT THE LAST THREE DAYS HERE AS A PDC GUEST.

3. CDS FAIR-PLAY APPEAL TO AFM BEARS RESULTS:

A FOUR-MAN CDS DELEGATION CALLED ON MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MARCH 25 TO PROTEST WHAT IT CONSIDERS UNFAIR, SLANDEROUS TREATMENT OF THE PARTY BY CERTAIN AFM MEMBERS (REF A). AFTER THE ENCOUNTER, THE FIFTH DIVISION OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE RESPONDING TO THESE CDS CHARGES, SPECIFICALLY THE CDS COMPLAINT THAT AT RECENT CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION SESSION PARTY LEADER DIOGO FREITAS DO AMARAL WAS CALLED A FASCIST BY AFM MEMBER. AFM COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT AFM DOES NOT SHARE VIEWS MADE IN THAT SESSION AND IS INVESTIGATING INCIDENT WITH VIEW TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION. CDS, IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, HAS DENIED PUBLICLY ANY CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH THE PORTUGUESE LIBERATION ARMY (ELP).

4. QUARREL OVER SYMBOLS ON ROAD TO RESOLUTION:

THE SQUABBLE BETWEEN THE PCP AND THE SOCIALISTS, ON ONE HAND, AND THE FEC-ML, MRPP, UDP, AND FSP ON THE OTHER, APPEARS ON THE WAY TO RESOLUTION (REF B, PARA 7). THE FSP AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UDP HAVE SUBMITTED NEW SYMBOLS TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IN COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT THEIR PARTY IDENTIFYING SIGN NOT BE LIKE THAT OF ANY OTHER PARTIES (THE PCP AND THE SOCIALISTS REGISTERED THEIR SYMBOLS FIRST). IN A MARCH 25 DECISION, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ACCEPTED THESE PARTIES' NEW DESIGNS, THEREBY RECERTIFYING THEIR RIGHT TO RUN IN ELECTIONS. FEC-ML HAS REFUSED TO BUDGE, STATING THAT ITS SYMBOL IS "SACRED" AND IMMUTABLE.

5. MRPP TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS:

MEETING WITH THE PRESS ON MARCH 25, MRPP SPOKESMEN REFERRED TO "RADICALLY ALTERED" PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION BROUGHT ABOUT BY MARCH 11 FASCIST-SPINOLIST COUP ATTEMPT AND "SOCIAL-FASCIST COUNTERCOUP WHICH HAS FOLLOWED." MRPP CALLED FOR "ACTIVE BOYCOTT" (I.E. HARRASSMENT) OF ELECTIONS, IN EVENT THEY ARE HELD, WHICH IT CONSIDERS DOUBTFUL.

6. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY INFRASTRUCTURE:

THE CABINET IN A JUST-PUBLISHED DECREE DATED MARCH 4 HAS CREATED A NINE-MAN NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, TO BE COMPOSED OF THREE AFM REPS (ONE OF WHOM WILL PRESIDE), THREE MINISTERIAL REPS, AND THREE TECHNICIANS. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE IS CHARGED WITH CREATING ADMINISTRATIVE, INFORMATION, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. IT BEGINS WORK IMMEDIATELY AND IS TO DISAPPEAR 30 DAYS AFTER ASSEMBLY BEGINS WORK.
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